THE LOGGER'S BARK

Radio Club of Tacoma, Inc.

P.O. Box 11188

Tacoma, WA 98411

MAY 2006 EVENTS

Club Meetings: Wednesdays April 12th and 26th at the library Administration building at 7:30 pm, 112th & Waller road. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting, Wednesday May 8th 7:30 p.m. Clubhouse - All members welcome

License Testing - Tuesday April 9th, 7:00PM at the RCT clubhouse.

BARK deadline Sunday May 28th 2006- PLEASE get articles, columns, etc. in by that time!

- Support OUR club - Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer.
- Check in to the 2-meter Net every Tuesday night at 7:30, on 147.28. Hear additional information on programs and other events.
- Check in on the 10 Meter Net every Sunday evening, 8 PM, on 28.375 MHz USB

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA OFFICERS -- 2006

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CLUB MEETINGS: 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month at the Pierce County Library Administration Building, 3005 - 112th Street East, Tacoma, WA

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA REPEATERS ARE ON THE FOLLOWING FREQUENCIES:

147.28 / .88 MHz (PL 103.5)	144.97 - Packet	440.625 / 445.625 (PL 103.5)
147.38 / .98 MHz (PL 103.5)		

The R.C.T. Clubhouse is located at 1249 South Washington Street, Tacoma, Washington. Mailing address for all Club business: Post Office Box 11188, Tacoma WA 98411 253-759-2040

Regular Membership Fees for FULL Members, except students, Family Members and Senior Citizens is $30.00 per calendar year. 1st 2 Family Members of the same household will pay $15.00 per calendar year. Full time students, up to and including seniors in college, ½ the fee for Full Membership ($15.00). Membership fee for Senior Citizens (65 and over) is $25.00 per calendar year. Lifetime membership: 20-times the appropriate annual fee.

E-mail all articles & advertising to thebark@comcast.net, or to :Gary McAdams 11405 88th AVE CT SW Lakewood, WA 98498-4109 Commercial Advertising per issue: $60.00 full page, $30 per one-half page, $15.00 per quarter page, Business Cards $5.00. Advertising moneys help offset the costs of publication and mailing. Swap and Wanted Column articles are free to R.C.T. members. *The Logger's Bark* does not verify or guarantee statements in the Swap or Wanted columns. Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in *The Logger's Bark* if credit line is included in the report.

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RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA

May 2006

Volume 2 Issue 5

The Logger's Bark

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

Inside this issue:

Calendar Rubber Ducky	5 6
VE Report	7
ARRL News	8
Conversations By Ward, NOAX	10
May Contests	11
RCT Meeting Minutes QSL 'O The Month	12 20
Repeater List Hamfest	18 19

Special points of interest:

- Elmer board page 4
- MAY Calendar page 5
- Repeater Extract from KR7W on page 18
- Ham fest info from AC7JY on page 19

From The Prez

"The Prez" Says that he is on spring break this month. Wish I had that kind of job…

So in his place, we present a bit of editorial material that has nothing whatever to do with anything of consequence at all.

Those of us who have been around the club for a while have had a chance to look back at the past and ask if the club is better now than it has been in the past.

Well, Amateur radio in general is nothing like it was even a decade ago. We know that the only real constant is change, but we also know that change just for the sake of something different is not always a good thing.

The club looks pretty good from my (admittedly biased) view point.

I joined W7DK in 1987 and I remember the organization seemed a little fossilized then, and not too open to new folks or new ideas. The welcome mat was not always at the front door like it is now, and as new ham I felt overlooked.

For example, take Field Day. Field Day is one of the biggest events on the Amateur calendar. I had taken my tests at W7Dk and passed and was waiting for the coveted ticket to arrive in the mail. I had set-up the station and was ready!

Too bad for me that the license arrived the Monday after FD! No one at 'DK had invited us newbie's to FD. They probably never even thought about it… I for one would have enjoyed the outing, but never got an invite, and there was no information coming out from the club.

Compare that to the current W7DK filed day, with a visitors station at the entrance, a GOTA station just for the newbie's, and public announcements of the event in this august publication, on the web site, and announced on the weekly nets.

Quit a difference if you ask me!

The W7Dk of today is an organization that is looking forward to the future, and is much more open and enjoyable than ever!

I encourage all members to get involved in the inner workings of the club! Volunteer for something, anything! Attend the 'DK at the (not) Beach and W7DK FD!

Yours Editorially, Gary WG7X

Get Plugged In

visit your club's website

www.w7dk.org

for the latest news and club activities

Elmer Board

Do you need help with some area in ham radio? Here is a place to start… First is the listing of areas of support, followed by a list of members' areas of interest.

1.Technical questions, Classes
2. Help with Code
3. License Examinations
4. Antenna and Station planning
5. Antenna and Tower erection
6. Buying new or used equipment
7. Equipment repair
8. Understanding and operating your equipment
9. DX and Contests
10. Club and ARRL activities
11. Using test equipment
12. IRLP

Name/Call Sign /Phone Number/ Help with topic

Alan, KB7SVU 253-840-4947: 4, 5, 10

Frank, N7UO 253-752-8520 : 2, 3

Angela, KC7EQ 253-589-4071: 2

Mick, KK7QS 253-891-6950 : 12

Gary WG7X 253-984-0868: 1,4,5,6,8,9,10,11

If you are willing to share your time and knowledge with "newbees" and others, let us know and get on the Elmer Board!

Schedule of Events

- Tuesdays May 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd & 30th Club Repeater net 147.280
- Board Meeting Wednesday May 3rd @ 7:30 PM at RCT club house.
- General meetings on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays: that's the 10th & 24th.
- VE Testing at RCT Clubhouse Tuesday May 9th at 7:00 PM.

MAY 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	26	26	27
28	29	30	31			

EDITORS NOTES...

Hello for the second time!

Well, I got in my Field Day evangelizing on the President's page, so in this space I'll just waste white space talking about my recent vacation trip to southern Utah.

The XYL Sue and I drove down to canyon country last month, and I must say that it was worth every mile on the road. The countryside is simply spectacular!

Sue and I stayed in Moab which is located right next to Arches and Canyon lands National parks. We spent the better part of the week exploring the desert canyons and arches.

We visited every national park in the state of Utah with the exception of Zion National Park. We simply ran out of time!

If I had realized that I could have shaved a day off the travel time by better trip planning… Oh, well!

I highly recommend a trip to the desert canyons of Utah.

Pictures only on request… HI!

Until Next month, 73, Gary WG7X

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH A RUBBER DUCKY?

No Rubber ducky this May again, just too many things on my plate, and I'm running out of technical things to say.

Been busy with a lot on what's left of my mind. Without going into it, no bark article again this month.

"But", I had a rude awakening at the club meeting (4 - 26 - 06). It was Jill and she wasn't rude, but she asked, in front of the club, "If we were going to have a Mothers Day Breakfast this May?" O - M - G, stupid time.

You know I had never given it any thought at all. And here it's the 26th of April with no announcements. So if you can, please put this the Bark, or on line, or in lights, somewhere:

Mothers day Breakfast is going to be the 3rd Sunday this month (conventional Mom's day is the 14th,but we are having ours a week later to slow down any family conflict)

It's going to be at the RCT club house From 8am to about 11 or 12 noon. We will have Ham, Eggs, Hotcakes, OJ, Coffee, Tea, etc. And if someone would like to bring some blue berries, strawberries, and maybe some whipped cream (cool whip's ok).

Everyone is free, the coffee fund is paying the bill. But if you have this burning desire to donate, we will have a big bucket by the front door. We end up with about 1/3rd or 1/2 of the outlay, so that's not bad. Come, Bring a Mother, and get a good breakfast. I'll be looking for some help in the kitchen (male), ladies are nice, but it's their day.

Rich N7ANF

Ok, Sorry, but I had to include at least ONE "I was there" photos of our recent trip to Utah.

On the left you see me and my lovely XYL Sue at Arches National Park.

WX was fine, about 75 degrees F and windy!

This photo was taken by a nice German Girl who just happened to have the same camera as we do! How's that for seren-dipity?

VE TEAM REPORT

VE REPORT

By John AC7WW

The VE Testing Session on the evening of April 11th at the Radio Club of Tacoma club house was attended by 15 candidates. There was eight VE's present to conduct the session.

Steve Morton, AD7AB had a Technician class on April 8th and 9th. Four of the five students passed the Technician exam.

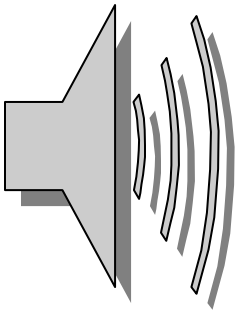
There were a total of 22 elements graded, with 17 being passed. Seven new Technicians joined the Amateur Radio Service. Four amateurs upgraded to General and two amateurs upgraded to Amateur Extra Class.

Thanks to the VE's that attended this session.

Next testing session will be Tuesday, May 9th at 7:00 PM

Mini-Swap Meet at the Clubhouse

Last Saturday of each month Mini Swap Meet at the Clubhouse ... 10 a.m. to 2 p.m....There will be food (hot dogs, etc.) ...Bring in your items you want to swap or sell or stop by to see what others bring.



Check in to the Tuesday evening Net at 7:30p.m. on 147.28 (the W7DK repeater) for the latest news and announcements from the club!

10 meter Net Sunday evening 8 p.m. On 28.375

CW net meets on Sunday evening 7 p.m. on 28.150

2-Meter SSB Net every Tuesday after FM net, 144.275

ARRL ALLEGES MISREPRESENTATION BY BPL OPERATOR, INACTION BY FCC

The ARRL once again has called for the immediate shutdown of the BPL pilot project in Briarcliff Manor, New York. In a March 29 letter that takes both BPL operator Ambient Corporation and the FCC to task, the League documented continued interference on amateur frequencies at various points of the Westchester County system. The ARRL has filed five previous interference complaints about the system, the first in October 2004. The system operates under an FCC Part 5 experimental license.

"In response to this interference, which has never been resolved or even substantively addressed by the Commission," the League wrote, "the experimental permittee, Ambient, has defiantly and consistently denied the interference, which Commission Enforcement Bureau staff personally witnessed and confirmed."

Copies of the League's latest complaint went to the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology and its Experimental Licensing Division as well as to the FCC Secretary and Ambient Corporation.

The ARRL disputed representations in a February 14 letter from Ambient counsel George Y. Wheeler to FCC Experimental Licensing Division Chief James Burtle. Wheeler's letter "simply denies that there is interference, which is patently untenable at this point," the League said. "However, the Commission's inaction has implicitly validated Ambient's inaction and repeated misrepresentations."

Interference measurements ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, made February 20 revealed "no substantial changes" in the system's interference profile on amateur frequencies, the League pointed out.

"The system is still operating un-notched on amateur bands at several separate locations, although notching of the amateur bands was evident at other locations in the system," the League said. Despite Ambient's claims that it had notched amateur bands, Hare found in several areas and ham bands that "none of the system appears to be notched." A 20-page supplement detailing Hare's February 20 findings accompanied the League's further complaint.

The findings show the Briarcliff Manor BPL system continues to cause harmful interference to Amateur Radio communication "and it is not compliant with applicable FCC Part 15 regulations," the League contended. It also fails to comply with the terms of its FCC Part 5 experimental authorization, nor is its operation consistent with Ambient's claims in progress reports it's filed with the FCC.

The League said it is "beyond any reasonable dispute" that the Briarcliff Manor BPL system fails to comply with Part 5 rules requiring permittees to cease transmissions "if harmful interference to an established radio service develops" and not resume transmissions until it's certain harmful interference will not recur. Part 15 rules contain similar provisions for unlicensed devices that may interfere with licensed services.

In addition, the League said, information regarding the Briarcliff Manor BPL system has yet to show up in the publicly accessible BPL database as Part 15 rules require. The ARRL took issue with Wheeler's assertions that the system's information does not have to appear in the database. "Section 15.615 of the rules makes no exception for Access BPL systems operating pursuant to an experimental authorization," the League stated.

Given its failure to comply with both Part 5 and Part 15 rules governing its operation, the Briarcliff Manor BPL system must be shut down, the ARRL demanded. "Alternatively, the Commission should rescind the experimental authorization and determine other appropriate sanctions against Ambient Corporation," the ARRL concluded.

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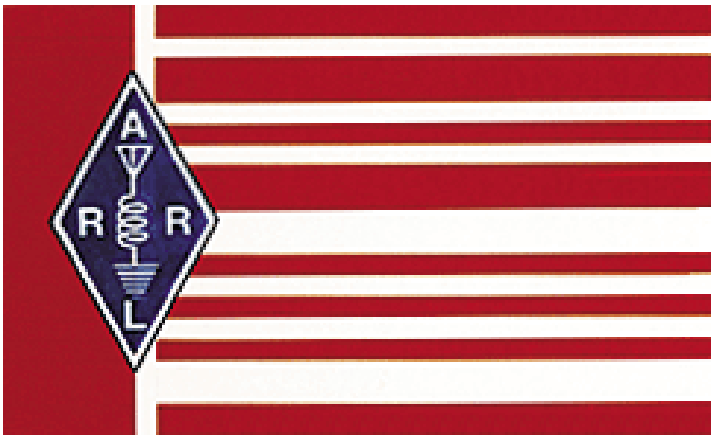

ARRL "HELLO" CAMPAIGN VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE

A 30-second video public service announcement (PSA) to promote the ARRL's "Hello" campaign--"Celebrating 100 Years of Voice over Radio Worldwide"--has been released. A radio spot has been available since March. Hello's architect, ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says the spot is available on disk in either DVD format--which plays on standard players--or in two larger broadcast-quality DV formats.

"We want to celebrate 100 years of people talking over the radio but not just look backward," he said. "In just 30 seconds, this video takes us on a rollercoaster through time and electronics, into today, when we find friendly people still ready to say 'Hello' all over the world."

Richard Lubash, N1VXW, of 2K-Plus in Atlanta, produced the new PSA. He had musical help from Emory Gordy, W4WRO, and voicing by New York City radio personality Johnny Donovan.

The video includes clips from all over, shot especially for the PSA, plus video of radio amateurs from IARU member-societies in Italy and Japan. Among the radio amateurs appearing in the video spot are Associazione Radioamatori Italiani (ARI) President Luigi Belvederi, I4AWX/AB1FJ, and Japan Amateur Radio League International Affairs Manager Jay Oka, JA1TRC/KH2J. Others include: Jack Parker, W8ISH; Kevin O'Dell, N0IRW, and his son Chris, N5CMO; Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, and wife Cyndy, KD4ACW; Nick Esposito, KC2ONP; Halley Orshan, KC2LYJ; and Emily Shaffer, KF4SUV.

A low-resolution version is viewable on the ARRL Public Relations Web page <http://www.arrl.org/pio/#pubserviceannouncements> (scroll down to "Video Files"). A special high-definition television (HDTV) version is available if needed.

Because copies are individually duplicated depending on the needs of the station and because of the costs of the disks, Pitts asks that "at least initially" requests be voluntarily limited to those who have contacts with a cable, TV or similar broadcast outlet and can get them shown to the public.

To request a disk, e-mail the Hello campaign <hello@arrl.org> your name, mailing address, the station or location in which you will be placing the video and the video format you need (DVD, DV or uncompressed-DV).

Hello campaign brochures, bumper stickers pins and other paraphernalia also are available. There's more campaign information on the "Hello" Web site

<http://www.hello-radio.org/>.

Pitts will be on the road this month to show off (and market) the new audio and video PSAs at the annual conventions of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) and the Radio and Television News Directors Association (RTNDA) April 22-27 in Las Vegas, and at a regional RTNDA convention April 8-9 in Boston.

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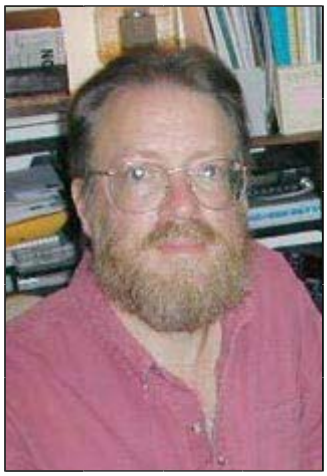
"Look Here you miscreants, every time you buy one of these, an angel get his wings!"

CONVERSATIONS FROM THE CONTESTORS RATE SHEET, BY WARD, N0AX



Deflating the Baloney Trolls

Surely you all remember the tale of the Billy Goats Gruff?

"Trip, trap, trip, trap!" went the bridge. "Who's that tripping over my bridge?" roared the troll. "Oh, it is only I, the Littlest Billy Goat," said the Billy goat, in a small voice.

"Now, I'm coming to gobble you up," said the troll!

Only a fairy tale, of course, but we do have our own trolls. They live out of sight on the reflectors and Web sites.

They lurk on repeaters and on their "very own" frequencies. They lie in wait for someone to cross their bridge and then spring to life.

No, they don't gobble up Billy goats, but they roar into action nonetheless. The are the keepers of the sacred, but unwritten, protocols and the mystical, but mostly mythical, traditions and legends. They are the protectors of their frequencies and channels. They challenge all that dare traverse their domain - for they are the Baloney Trolls.

Woe to the newcomer that strays the least bit from the Pure Ways of Radio as known to the Baloney Troll! The troll's day is made if he (and trolls are nearly always male) can cast newcomers off the bridge, hopefully never to be seen again. The troll's weapons are the sneer and pointed remark against which the exposed and tender flesh of a newly minted licensee has no defense. The troll cares not that his Ways are often bogus and of no particular Merit, even to himself.

Pity the questioning innocent that inquires for directions or instruction! This is truly a troll's delight, as he lives to dispense the True Baloney. "Why, didn't you know...?" says the troll, followed by a cornucopia of drivel delivered with an all-knowing and unctuous demeanor. The Littlest Billy Goat replies, "Really?" in a high-pitched voice and alas, he has swallowed the baloney and is surely led into the thicket of Baloney Briars from which making an escape is painful and laborious.

"And then the Big Billy Goat flew at the troll,

and poked his eyes out with his horns,

and crushed him to bits, body and bones,

and tossed him out into the cascade,

and after that he went up to the hillside."

What to do about the Baloney Trolls? They are seemingly everywhere, poisoning every discussion and making life difficult for newcomers. It falls to us, the Big Billy Goats, to deflate the Baloney Trolls, for they are mostly made of hot air and have no real substance, only the sound of their own exhalations to sustain them.

First, be not a Baloney Troll yourself! Be wise and patient when the microphone button is pushed or when the characters leap from your fingertips. Speak not in anger and eschew obfuscation.

Be not afraid of the magic words, "I Don't Know" for they lead to additional wisdom for all. Give freely of the milk of human kindness. Above all, remember what it was like to be the Littlest Billy Goat.

Engaging a troll in battle merely encourages them, so direct deflation may not work very well. Big Billy to Little Billy, we must speak to them in quiet ways and places not known to the trolls - by letter and phone call, at meetings, and by email. Let the troll deflate himself by his response to reasoned and clever questions and examples. Call the troll by his true name so that the Little Billy Goats are inoculated against them. Without someone to eat up their baloney, a troll soon withers and finds another bridge to haunt.

Help the Little Billie's to leave the Baloney Trolls behind in their uncomfortable places. There are really very few of them and it is only the sound of their roaring that makes them seem important and fearsome. By sticking together, Big Billy and Little Billy, we can all proceed up to the hillside and grow fat together.

"Snip, snap, snout.

This tale's told out."

73, Ward N0AX

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MAY CONTESTS

AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, May 1
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 2
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 5
MARAC County Hunter Contest, CW	0000Z, May 6 to 2400Z, May 7
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 6 to 2359Z, May 7
Microwave Spring Sprint	0600-1300 local, May 6
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 6 to 0700Z, May 7
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 6 to 0400Z, May 7
ARI International DX Contest	2000Z, May 6 to 1959Z, May 7
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 6 to 0500Z, May 7 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 7
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, May 10
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 12
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, May 13
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party	1200Z, May 13 to 2400Z, May 14
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 13 to 1200Z, May 14
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 13 to 1200Z, May 14
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 13
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 13 to 0300Z, May 14
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, May 15
NAQCC 80m Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, May 18 and 0330Z-0530Z, May 18
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, May 18
Thursday NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 19
US Counties QSO Party, SSB	0000Z, May 20 to 2400Z, May 21
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 20 to 1200Z, May 21
EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z, May 20 to 1200Z, May 21
Portuguese Navy Day Contest, PSK31	1500Z-2100Z, May 20
Portuguese Navy Day Contest, CW/SSB	1500Z, May 20 to 1500Z, May 21
Manchester Mineira CW Contest	1500Z, May 20 to 2400Z, May 21
Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 20 to 0200Z, May 21
QRP Minimal Art Session	1900Z-2300Z, May 25
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 27 to 2359Z, May 28
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, CW	0800Z-1400Z, May 27
ARCI Hootowl Sprint	2000 local - 2400 local, May 28
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z, May 28 to 0300Z, May 29

Board Meeting April 5th, 2006

The April 5th board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma club house. President Mick Pier-KK7QS called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President:	Mick Pier -- KK7QS,
Secretary:	Larry Watson -- KD4VOM,
Treasurer:	Pat Wingerter-- KD7TRC,
Board Member:	Frank Palmer -- AC7JY,
Board Member	Roddney Saucedo -- WV7O
Board Member	Peter Baker – AD7EU
Board Member	Larry Alvar – KD7TQW

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Minutes from the 1 March 2006 board meeting were approved as corrected. Motion was made, Seconded and Approved to remove the following paragraph under the Membership committee report :)

"Following a lengthy discussion, the action was for Jill to write up a proposed motion to add language to the Standing Rules laying out the procedure for offering free membership to new hams who have attended our classes and passed their FCC elements with our VE Team."

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence:

Larry – KD4VOM reported several bills, bank statements and QSL cards.

Mick – KK7QS reported on the e-mail exchange with the Scout Jamboree point of contact Bruce. Only limited power available, we should plan on our own power, but motorhome parking and overnight stay is available and permitted. We may operate in an "easy up" or from an RV, our choice; Setup is from Friday, May 5th from noon on.

Mick will raise the topic again at the general membership meeting to solicit a committee/team to work the Scout support.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pat Wingerter – KD7TRC

Pat provided the monthly financial report.

A copy of the Monthly financial statement is attached.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Frank – AC7JY for Jill – K7JIL, and Rick – KE7EMW;

The current membership number is around 252. The roster deadline is Sunday.

Field Day: Generator Batteries: Chuck Kemmer – AC7QN requests authorization to purchase generator batteries he had previously submitted a budget for. The Board approved the purchase of the generator batteries.

Field Day: Band Pass Filters: Larry – KD4VOM for Nick Winter K7MO; Nick requests five band pass filters for 80-40-20-15-10 meters. They are $38.00 plus shipping.

Discussion – There was considerable discussion on this request. Some thought we already had them, others thought that Nick loaned his own last year. The board entertained a motion to allocate $ 500 for Field Day expenses. The board felt that there may be other expenses associated with field day and that we had no budget proposal for Field Day. In the end, the Board decided to request a Field day budget proposal from the team.

There followed a discussion of the difference between a Budget, and actual authorization to spend money. Budget is a planning process which allows the Club to plan its financial year. A Budget, even when/if approved by the Board is not an authorization to spend. Approval of spending is a separate process commonly called "Authorization". Once an authorization has been granted by Board action (whether budgeted or not) spending is approved. Reimbursement of expenses is always subject to completion of the Club Treasurer's Expense report and associated receipts documenting the purchase/s. Because the Board did not have the information necessary to approve the request for band pass filters, or other possible Field Day expenses, and was also concerned that we may either already have items or materials already, or may be acquired by loan or donation from the general membership, the Board elected to request a budget plan from the Field Day committee/team. The Secretary will inform the Field Day team, and provide a format for a Field Day Planning and Budgeting proposal.

90th Anniversary Planning: Peter Baker –AD7EU

Peter is preparing a revised Anniversary QSO party, to remove the "contesting" language, and generally update the plan. *(An anniversary flyer is attached to the original of these minutes.)* Peter is also planning to use some of the ARRL Public Information (Swiss Army Knife) material to promote our 90th. He is seeking volunteers to help in making contacts with community

leaders and organizations as he is limited by his work hours. He will raise this request at the next general membership meeting.

Membership Trend Analysis Report: Rick Rose – KE7EMW

Rick presented an analysis of the Club's membership history since 2001. In particular it displayed the total membership by year, as well as an analysis of how many members who joined in a given year stayed for how long. For example of the 28 members who joined in 2001, 6 were undetermined (lack of reliable data), 6 other stayed three years and 3 remain members today. The membership totals for each year are:

2001 379

2002 387

2003 259

2004 268

2005 261

2006 To date; 250

There were several ideas about how we might use the database to help us determine why folks are staying or not… Rick was asked to look at the membership by age group and zip code. There are certainly other ways to analyze the data to improve our service to members as well as retain new members longer.

Membership Roster Printing and Mailing: Rick Rose KE7EMW

Rick presented his research into the alternative costs of producing and mailing the membership roster. Rick's presentation included bids for various paper weights at Kinko's, and Office Depot. Discussion included checking out the Fife Costco Business center as possibly being less expensive. Rick is looking for a cover letter for the membership roster and an Anniversary Flyer from Peter. Al -- K7HW wanted to be sure the confidentiality statement was included in the cover letter as it was in years past.

Rick pointed out that the roster is setup so that those who do not want e-mails or phone numbers published, will not have that data published.

Rick's research has resulted in the following:

The membership roster is 8 pages, double sided printing, and he has allowed for an additional page for the cover letter and a 90th Anniversary Flyer.

Rick secured 20 and 24 pound paper copy estimates for 270 copies collated and stapled from Kinko's and Office Depot.

Kinko's 20 pound estimate was $ 232.00

Office Depot's 20 pound estimate was $ 144.39 (plus a $ 23 store credit

Envelopes (Letter size/Flats) 275 for $ 25.00

Postage difference between the half page folded/small envelope mailing and large envelope amounts to ~ 3 cents per envelope x 270 copies = an additional cost of $ 7.50.

We have traditionally used our own copier and folded the rosters in half, then taped them and had an outside cover which meets Post Office bulk mail requirements.

Steve –KD7UBE suggested we also seek a bid from Costco Business Center in Fife who is competitive in copy work.

Peter – AD7EU will revise the 90th Anniversary flyer for inclusion in the mailing.

A cover letter is needed which should retain the confidential disclaimer on the use of the roster from previous mailings. Jill may already have this underway.

Rick pointed out that since the database will be current, new members could receive a full up current roster. It was pointed out that we still need to publish monthly updates through the BARK for all members, and it may be confusing to have multiple versions of the roster.

The rationale for getting the commercial printing options centered on the age and slowness of the club printer. Its collator is not working.

Motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize the printing of the Membership Roster on 20 lb paper at Office Depot or the Costco Business Center whichever provides the less expensive printing cost.

W7DK @ the Beach: Larry—KD4VOM

Larry announced that he and XYL Janice will take on the annual picnic if we can reserve a spot at Spanaway Lake. Last week the 4th of June was open, and if the board approves, he will try to secure a shelter for the picnic. We can cancel the 11 June reservation at Owen's Beach with a full refund if we do it at least sixty days in advance. Costs at Spanaway are also less than Owen's Beach. The preferred shelter would be # 7 at the South end of the park if available.

For a program, Larry has asked Nick -- K7MO to contact the ARDF team and invite them to help us set up an Amateur Radio Direction Finding event. There were questions about the entrance fee, power and water. Larry will check on the entrance fee, and we are told that water and power are available.

Motion made Seconded and Passed to make reservations for the picnic at Spanaway Lake, for the 4th of June or the 11th of June.

Club Office Expenses: Larry – KD4VOM

Now that Steve has one of the three planned computers in-

stalled upstairs, we needed a printer. Al Burleson found and purchased a HP 4000 with duplexer from the State Surplus store for $ 136.00, He also purchased two 2 drawer file cabinets for Club and Planning team administrative use at $ 35 each plus tax. Al has also donated a large flatbed scanner for club use.

Moved, Seconded and Passed to reimburse Al for the purchase of the printer and file cabinets.

Club Flag and Flagpole: Steve – KD7UBE

Recent wind storm had broken the top pulley and the flag fell. It is also frayed at the end from the wind. Steve purchased a smaller temporary flag from the Coast Guard for $ 10.00 and has repaired the flagpole and pulley system. The flag needs mending as well.

Moved, Seconded and Passed to reimburse Steve $10.00 for the repair and replacement flag.

Larry -- KD4VOM agreed to take the flag home to repair it.

Olympia Club Visit: Steve – K7UBE

Steve and Al visited the Olympia Amateur Radio Club recently and during the visit, they indicated a desire to visit our Club. Steve extended the invitation and they plan to visit our club on the 12 and 26 April meetings.

Planning Committee – Financial Review: KD4VOM

The Planning Committee proposes that the Club appoint the following to perform the Annual Financial review required by Club Bylaws:

Paul LeBlanc – K7AXJ	Chairman
Larry Alvar – KD7TQW	Member
Anna Winter – K7ANA	Member
Al Burleson – K7HW	Member

Motion made Seconded and Passed to appoint the proposed team to accomplish the annual Financial Review.

ARRL Programs and our 90th Anniversary Celebration: Larry KD4VOM

Larry alerted the Board to an upcoming request to purchase some of the ARRL promotional materials to help get the word out on Amateur Radio at the same time we promote our own Anniversary. The ARRL has developed three programs of interest to us. The first is the "Hello" program which is oriented to getting the word out about Amateur Radio, the Second is "When all Else Fails, Amateur Radio Works" which is oriented to informing the public about the contributions Amateur Radio has made and is capable of making to emergency communications, especially in disasters. The ARRL "Swiss Army Knife Program" which is a package of tools for Club Public Information Officers (PIO) to use in promoting ARRL and Amateur Radio. It contains tutorials on how to write Press Releases, as well as radio and television "Spots" already made for Broadcast radio and Television use. We think purchasing some of the Coffee cups as presentations to those who put on programs for the Club would be a nice "Thank You" gift, as well as something to leave with community leaders who help us get the Amateur Radio message out to the community.

Hamfest Planning: Frank – AC7JY

Planning to put a list of jobs we need to fill for this year's Hamfest in the Bark to solicit volunteers for them.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Free Membership: During the discussion of the correction of the 1 March minutes portion dealing with pro-rata membership procedure, the topic of free membership procedures was picked up again. Several past Board minutes refer to and document a Board decision to provide a free membership offer. The 7 May 2003 minutes state:

"New Business: Motioned, Seconded and Passed to offer a free membership in the club for the remainder of the year to anyone who attends our Technician Class, tests, passes and is licensed."

After considerable discussion, the Board agreed to incorporate the process in the Standing Rules. The Secretary offered to prepare a draft of a proposed Standing Rule to define the free membership offer. The elements to include; the previous Board language quoted above, and expansion to include additional clarification so that the procedure, term and type of membership are clearly defined.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Washington State Fair: Pat – KD7TRC

Received letter from Washington State Fair asking if we are interested in participating in this year's fair. Pat will let them know we plan to participate.

Discussion Topics:

Membership Survey: Larry – KD4VOM

Larry suggested that we really need to understand our membership better; Operator and equipment capabilities, interests, emergency operations training, experience and equipment capabilities as well as club member interests and what they may be looking for the Club to do. He proposes preparing a survey to send with the membership renewals we already have to mail to solicit the information. Rick Rose's membership database would be expanded to include the survey data, and after the first year, each individual's submission would be pre filled with available information, thus requiring the member only to make changes and return the survey in a Club addressed envelope we would include.

Rick Rose advised us that Jill and Rick already plan to distribute the membership renewal forms this fall, instead of waiting until March of next year to prompt responses.

General Meeting MINUTES 12 April, 2006

The 12 April Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Mick Pier-KK7QS called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President:	Mick Pier -- KK7QS
Vice President:	Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Secretary:	Larry Watson --KD4VOM
Treasurer:	Pat Wingerter --KD7TRC
Board Member:	Frank Palmer--AC7JY
Board Member	Peter Baker – AD7EU

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Was led by the President, Mick Pier KK7QS

INTRODUCTIONS:

Several members of the Olympia Amateur Radio Club joined us for tonight's meeting, were introduced and welcomed. Following introduction of other guests, member self introductions were completed

Peter Baker – AD7EU who is planning the 90th Anniversary events for the Club read an excerpt from an old scrapbook.

From a 1916 Tacoma Tribune article; dateline Olympia, December 2:

"26 members of the Radio Club of Tacoma were guests at a social given here by the Olympia Radio Club. Alvin Stenso, President of the visiting club, Reverend Sebastian Ruth of Lacey College, and Secretary of State Grant C Hinkle gave short talks on the work of the Amateur Radio workers. Music, dancing and refreshments comprised the entertainment features. Following a long discussion, at 10 pm, it was time set for operators of each city to clear and assist in relaying messages. Fifty were at the meeting."

Illness or Silent Key: Jill -- K7JIL reported on her visit with Jerry Seligman who continues to recover at the Regency rehabilitation center. Jerry now has a 2 meter rig, and is enjoying getting back on the air. Jill also brought the Scrapbook she had put together for Jerry for those present to see.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson –KD4VOM

Correspondence:

Larry –KD4VOM: The only correspondence were the normal bank statements, phone bill and QSL Cards

The Minutes of the previous meeting were not available, but will appear in the BARK as usual.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pat Wingerter – KD7TRC

The Treasurer's report is available for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Jill Palmer – K7JIL

Membership renewals are going well, and the roster is ready for mailing. We have about 260 members currently. Rosters should be mailed over the next week.

VE Report: John Clarke AC7WW

John reported on the 11 April VE testing session at the Radio Club of Tacoma club house. There were 15 Candidates and 8 VE's to conduct the session. Steve Morton AD7AB's April 8 and 9th Technician Class had five students test and four passed.

There were 22 elements graded, 17 passed. 7 new Technicians joined the Amateur Radio Service, Four amateurs upgraded to General and two upgraded to Amateur Extra Class.

The next testing session will be Tuesday, May 9th at 7:00 pm

PROGRAM: Nick Winter – K7MO

Nick Winter introduced Ward Silver N0AX, well known Ham Radio, Author, contester, CW operations and DXpeditioner… He is a regular writer and contributor to the ARRL QST magazine. Tonight's program was an outstanding presentation on the planning, travel, setup, operations and results of the K7C Kure Atoll DXpedition. The Power Point program described Kure's location (1,300 miles northwest of the main Hawaiian Islands) and value as a DX operation site. Ward outlined the loading and transit of the 71 foot "Machias" from mainland Hawaii to Kure. This and the return trip were a "tour de force" with heaving seas and cramped quarters. The Atoll itself is a nature preserve and has a semi-permanent naturalist resident. Aside from ants, giant spiders and thorny brushes the setup and operations were hampered only by the heat and size of the area permitting setting up the antennas and tent/stations. Over 50 thousand contacts were made and over half of those were CW. Ward enthusiastically described the trip, setup, operations and daily team activities on Kure. For those who missed this outstanding presentation, I've included a link to the Kure story on the internet where you can get the full story, less Wards first

class insight and enjoyable stories. Ward's final observation; "You don't have a real adventure if you enjoyed it while it was happening".

http://www.cordell.org/KURE/KURE_pages/KURE_Overview.html

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DK @ the Beach: Mick Pier – KK7QS The picnic has been changed from 11 June at Owens Beach, Point Defiance, to Spanaway Park on 4 June.

ARRL Messages: Mick Pier – KK7QS

We received a message from the ARRL which contains multiple links to various ARRL Resources for Associate Clubs. It contains links to the ARRL Multi-Media Library, Club Call signs, License Class Search Page, Registered Volunteer Instructors, Clip Art and Logos, Technical information and much more.

We also received an ARRL master operating schedule N4S Satellite special event.

New RCT E-Mail distribution system: Mick also pointed out that Rick Rose – KE7EMW has developed an e-mail distribution system based on our membership database which allows timely dissemination of these and other communications of interest to our members.

Field Day Shirts and Pins: Larry KD4VOM

Larry advised the group that Field Day is approaching and that he will have an order form for those wishing to order Field Day T Shirts and Pins at the next few meetings.

90th Anniversary Planning meeting: tomorrow night (Thursday) at 6:30 – Any who want to help or participate are welcome.

Take Back The Streets Event: Peter – AD7EW

Friday 21 April the "Take Back the Streets Event" sponsored by the merchants group is seeking anyone willing to help with communications. Tacoma's Mayor and City Manager are expected to be there. Contact Peter if interested.

Discussion Topics:

Next Program: Nick Winter – K7MO

The next program will be on low frequency antennas, 160 meters, 80 meters, 40 meters, Beverages K9AY's Flags and Pennants.

Clubhouse Lights: Steve Blacksten – KD7UBE

Al and Steve replaced both the back porch and flag lights at the clubhouse which were burned out. Larry –KD4VOM announced that he has a new flag as the old one was faded, torn and beyond repair.

Hints and Kinks: Lynn Neece – K7OKS

Lynn alerted those who collect or restore older equipment to a service in Ohio that makes reproductions of older radio front panels, especially Drake 4 line. They are all aluminum plate with silk screen process. Contact Lynn if interested.

Door Prize won by:

Power/SWR Bridge Calrad / Gary Robinson K7GGR

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

26 April, 2006

The 26 April 2006 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . Vice President Jill Palmer – K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President:	Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Secretary:	Larry Watson --KD4VOM
Treasurer:	Pat Wingerter --KD7TRC
Board Member:	Frank Palmer--AC7JY
Board Member	Roddney Saucedo -- WV7O

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Was led by Jill, K7JIL

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed.

Illness or Silent Key: Jill reported on the passing of two long time members; Harry Ball, W7HP and Rene Smith (Honorary Member).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Jill Palmer – K7JIL

Jill delivered Nametag Badges

Field Day: Bob Purdom – KE7DGQ

Bob reminded us that Field Day (June 24th and 25th) planning was moving right along and handed out sign up sheets of needed help and solicited volunteers for those jobs.

PROGRAM: Nick Winter – K7MO

Tonight's program was presented by hizzhonor Nick. The topic was working 160 meters and specifically the characteristics of that band – QRM -- Most of the presentation was devoted to the various types of antennas, especially receive antennas designed to reduce noise. The Beverage, K9AY and others were described as well as the various electronic techniques of feeding them. Several systems permit lobe pattern switching feed line isolation and Nick bought along several commercial and homebrew control systems designed to facilitate operations on the band. He recommended

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Scout Jamboree: Steve Blacksten KD7UBE reminded the club that we are supporting the Scouts on 5 6 and 7 May. Help is welcome Friday night to setup and of course any day to assist with the various Scout merit badge and amateur radio familiarization activities.

Mother's Day Potluck: Pat asked if Rich was considering the annual Mother's Day Potluck.

Field Day T-Shirts and Pins: Larry announced that the club is taking orders for this Year's Field Day T Shirts and Pins. All shirts and pins will be prepaid. The roster will be available for the next couple of minutes and then the order submitted. Order Roster is at the Books Table.

W7DK Picnic: Larry –KD7VOM reminded folks that the annual W7DK picnic is coming up on 4 June at Spanaway Lake Park. A handful of initial flyers are on the check in table. As usual, the Club will provide frankfurters, buns and sodas. You bring your favorite picnic potluck item, salads, beans, deserts, etc. This year we are planning a "Bunny" (transmitter) hunt. Rich Patrick KR7W and Chuck Kemmer – AC7QN are hosting a build it yourself workshop for up to 10 folks to build their own tape measure Yagi type antennas and attenuators for the hunt. The workshops will be held on Sunday afternoon May 7th and Monday evening May 8th. Detailed information and parts/tools needs are available on the website http://www.w7dk.org/ . Rich demonstrated the Tape measure Yagi and attenuator with a propositioned "bunny".

Door Prize won by:

An ARRL Antenna Compendium/Al Churchill AC7BU

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm

Repeaters In Our Vicinity

Courtesy of WWARA Repeater Directory

FREQ MHz	PL TONE Hz	LOCATION/ALTITUDE	CALL	REPEATER OWNER
53.101	100.0	University Place / 320 ft	K7NP	University Place Repeater Group
53.030	100	North Mountain / 3040 ft	K7CH	Carl Holman
53.230	103.5	Olalla / 535 ft	WR7HE	Herman Entz
53.470	100	Capitol Peak / 2681 ft	WR7JM	Jon Marcinko
145.290	114.8	University Place / 315ft	K7NP	University Place Repeater Group
145.350	103.5	Olalla / 535 ft	W7ZLJ	K7PAG & K7TGJ
147.280	103.5	Tacoma / 471 ft	W7DK	Radio Club of Tacoma
147.360	103.5	Olympia / 250 ft	NT7H	Olympia OARS ***
147.380	103.5	Crawford Mountain / 1470 ft	W7DK	Radio Club of Tacoma
224.460	103.5	Crawford Mountain / 1470 ft	NT7H	Olympia OARS ***
421.250		Federal Way / 590 ft	WA7FW	Federal Way ARC
440.225	103.5	Olalla / 535 ft	WR7HE	Herman Entz
440.625	103.5	Tacoma / 451 ft	W7DK	Radio Club of Tacoma
440.650	100	North Mountain / 3060 ft	K7CH	Carl Holman
441.400	103.5	Crawford Mountain/ 1470 ft	NT7H	Olympia OARS ***
442.375	103.5	University Place / 320 ft	K7NP	University Place Repeater Group
NOTE: *** these repeaters are linked together. Talk on one and retransmits on all three.				

RCT HAMFEST 2006 IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

As most of you know, this is one of our biggest annual fundraisers and also a chance for everyone in the club to have a lot of fun. As usual we will create a fun time because we'll organize a support team that will make things run smoothly and efficiently. That is where **YOU** come in!

Friday August 11th is set up day

Vendor tables will be delivered to the site before 9a.m. That gives us less than five hours to set up and position the tables and chairs, run electricity where needed, post signs, borders, and barriers.
In the past years we have had a great crew to do the Friday set up and we usually get done within three hours.

TALK IN STATION

There will be a station set up near the door to help guide participants to the event. We will use 2 meters for this. It will take two people to do this job.

SIGNS

Bill Lucas KB7IHB will be the man in charge of signs. He'll need a couple of people to help with this very important task

PARKING

This will take a few well-placed people to guide traffic so that the check in point does not get congested. Vendor vehicle control at the loading area is a must.

FOOD

JIM SWANSON KD7TJE will be our Chief Gourmet this year. He has a lot of plans for food service and I'm sure he could use more help.

ADMISSION

Here is a sit down job for 3 or 4 people. This job includes ticket and money handling, greeting, and wrist bands for entry.

VE TESTING

JOHN CLARKE AC7WW has taken charge and organized this for a couple of years now. Here is an opportunity for some accredited VE club members.

DEMOS

IF YOU HAVE A DEMO that you would like to share, we'll make space available for it. Preferably not bigger than one table.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

WE NEED YOU to take lots of digital pictures for the history of our club. Also, we might be able to get a picture in QST magazine.

These are some of the jobs available at this point. Sign up for one-or more! This is a chance to participate in a large RCT activity.
We will have an organization meeting soon.

73,
Frank Palmer AC7JY 2006 Hamfest Chairman

QSL Card of the Month Submitted by: Rich KR7W

PINOCHLE & POTLUCK

See you at the clubhouse

Saturday May 6th 6:30 P.M.

For more info call: 759-4898

Jack, WA7ENB & Marilyn Moore